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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer.

LETTERS FROM RED CROSS NURSES

I

DEAR EDITOR: During our stay in London on our way to France we have been entertained by many English and American people. One of the most delightful of these entertainments was given at The American Nurses' Club, 42 Grosvenor Place, London, about which I should like American Nurses at home and abroad to know, and knowing I am sure they would appreciate. The Club has just been opened and I have the honor to be the first American nurse to register in it. It has been organized and is maintained by American women in London with Lady Harcourt at the head. Everything has been arranged for the comfort of the nurses, charming reception rooms, dining room and lounge, six bedrooms which are for the use of nurses returning from duty, who are urged to make the club their home. I think those who do will find rest for soul as well as for body in the elegance and beauty as well as comfort of the club. The building is beautifully situated overlooking very lovely gardens and is a mansion in its interior decorations, furnishings, and the size of its rooms. I am sure our nurses at home will feel as deeply gratified as I and all of these nurses who have seen what our American friends in London have done for us.

London, England.

A. L. C.

II

. . . . We are all quite happy here, have been here just one month. It's very interesting, everything about it. I have been on night duty, and when I start in with day work, I'll find it more interesting. We're working in a tent hospital. They've a few huts for the very sick patients and I've the surgical hut, and have all sorts of frames with extensions, etc., for broken legs and arms. The frames our doctor brought with him, and the English officers are all very much interested in them. We have more than twice the number of beds we expected to take care of but have gotten along very nicely. We have not had our tents filled as they've been sending us small convoys and they always send them in at night, any time after midnight, and we night nurses often have our hands full, especially when we're getting patients ready for an out convoy. The most of our patients go out within three weeks excepting the fractured cases and the sick medical cases. We have many shell shock cases, which are very interesting. I've only had one among my surgical cases. The Cleveland unit is very near us. The Philadelphia unit came on the same steamer with us and we were together in London and crossed the Channel, then separated. We left the Chicago unit in London and we haven't heard where they went. We had a nice voyage, some of us were sick, but were able to be on deck most of the time. We saw no submarines and none of us were disappointed over it. We have a very pretty location and the nurses' quarters are quite comfortable now, I imagine they'll be cold next winter. It gets cold now at night, but the days are nice when it isn't raining.

We've had a good deal of rain. I've started French lessons, but don't really hope to get much out of them until I am off night duty, and have more time to myself. We get little news from America, hope to have papers sometime and then we'll know everything, even though late.

France.

B. L.

III

. . . . After two weeks I found myself confronted with the responsibilities of a "military matron," a combination of American and English methods as we are, in some respects, subject to directions of the latter. We are in a beautiful location adjacent to the country woods of France with the many walks. We have not been as busy as we expected to be but I suppose it will not always be so. Our family of sixty-four nurses are all well and looking much improved since living the outdoor life. Our huts can be thrown open and we are practically outdoors throughout the twenty-four hours. We are very comfortable, considering what we expected, and we have abundance to eat although the variety may be limited.

France.

G. E. A.

IV

The hospital consists of roughly-built wooden shacks that give prospect of being rather cool for patients in the winter. It is on the grounds of a small chateau, which has a lovely small wood on the hill slope in the rear, and a stone wall surrounds everything. The country is beautiful—lovely hills and valleys and beautiful wild flowers and trees. The woods seem so neat and queer with all the underbrush carefully cut out for fuel, while the trees are untouched. We had an interesting trip over. After we landed, we stayed for a while in a new Normal School Building in a little village a short distance inland. Everyone has been lovely to us. Our trip here was so primitive that it will make good stories on our return. It was very interesting and showed us many sections of the country. The queerest of all were the "cliff-dwellers"—people who actually live in holes dug in the side of a low hill. Some had windows, some had none, some had just slits. All were faced with stone and some had huge chimneys sticking above the hill. Others of these caves were used for wine vaults, sheds and stables. All the roads and canals were lined with beautiful trees. It all was most picturesque. Our first patients have arrived and more are due today. We are still busy getting the hospital in order, or rather some are, for there is not enough for all to do.

France.

E. A. McI. J.